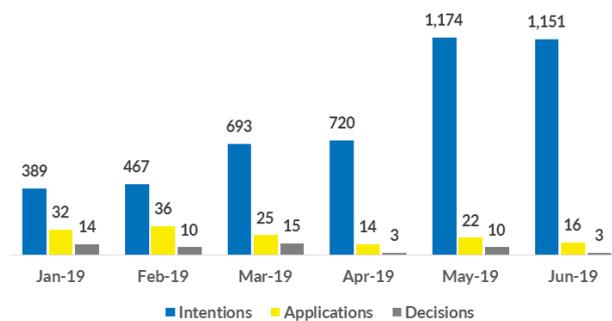


## SERBIA UPDATE

- Two Afghan nationals were **stabbed to death in Belgrade** on 05 and 06 June respectively, allegedly by fellow Afghan men. One victim was a 20-year-old man, and the second one a 17 year old unaccompanied or separated child (UASC). While the investigation of both killings is ongoing, the police established 24/7 presence inside the Krnjača Asylum Centre (AC), which houses most UASC in Serbia. UNHCR partner Belgrade Center for Human Rights (BCHR), issued a [Press Statement](#) calling on authorities to address shortcomings in child protection.
- The Asylum Office (AO) of the Ministry of Interior ruled on three applications for asylum, granting protection to one person and rejecting two. Thus far in 2019, the AO **recognised the protection needs** of 27 asylum seekers, including five cases with LGBTI claims and one UASC, granting 13 refugee and 14 subsidiary protection status.
- In June, over **1,250** asylum-seekers throughout the country benefitted from **legal counselling** by UNHCR and partners, five asylum-seekers signed power of attorney to the lawyers of UNHCR legal partner and one benefitted from psychological assessment.

Asylum intentions/applications/decisions



- Progress was also made in the **integration** of recognised refugees: in addition to supporting the Regional Housing Programme, UNHCR and partners, in close coordination with the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, provided 71 adult asylum-seekers and refugees with Serbian language classes, 42 with financial and one with vocational training support and obtained work permits for two.
- Authorities, UNHCR and partners marked **World Refugee Day**: At noon of 20 June (ex-) refugees received their keys to 270 new apartments constructed under the Regional Housing Project (RHP) in Kamendin, Belgrade. In the evening UNHCR welcomed refugees and their friends in government and authorities, partners, donors, members of the diplomatic corps and other stakeholders to a concert of [MAP](#), moderated by a refugee from Burundi and a refugee from Croatia. A screen running 5,5min localized HQ clips and Serbia refugee-related developments was displayed at a central Belgrade square 19-22 June. The materials were aired by 12 TV stations. Partners BCHR, DRC and Indigo organised separate events that succeeded in bringing refugees together with the local population of Belgrade and Vranje.
- Two stories on successful education of UASC were published: a secondary design school student (see: <https://bit.ly/30ptRp8>) and two UASC who learned Serbian so well that they took the final exams (see: <https://bit.ly/2Sej6TR>).
- UNHCR and its partner CRPC conducted a **participatory assessment** with women asylum-seekers staying in private accommodation in Belgrade, and together with the OSCE mission three **focus groups discussions** with beneficiaries of the RHP in Smederevo, Paraćin and Šid.
- Acting upon a complaint lodged by UNHCR partner Praxis, the Serbian Commissioner for Protection of Equality, [established](#) that the Administration of Bujanovac Municipality and the Ministry of Justice, Science and Technological Development had violated, within their respective purviews, relevant articles of the [Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination](#) because they failed to implement appropriate and effective measures to prevent and eliminate the formation of **Roma-only classes** in a Primary School in Bujanovac.

- Fifteen expert civil society organizations met to discuss how to best support Serbia's implementation of the **Global Compact for Refugees** and its presentation of good models, contributions and pledges to the **Global Refugee Forum** in December in Geneva.
- UNHCR and MoLEVSA co-chaired a **Refugee Protection Working Group** meeting in Belgrade, which welcomed participants from authorities, civil society, the donor community, for updates on the asylum and migration situation by authorities, on the new development of a new asylum Twinning Project by a representative of Swedish Embassy and on the UNHCR-IDEAS Guardianship Project by a guardian.



*Music Art Project (MAP) performance on the occasion of World Refugee Day, ©Imre Szabo/UNHCR, 20 June 2019*

- The number of UASC who reached Serbia this year now surpassed 1,600, with **429** newly arriving UASC – all boys, mainly from Afghanistan and Pakistan - counted in June alone. Some **415** UASC were accommodated in two Asylum Centres and five specialized centres. **325** UASC benefitted from guardianship by UNHCR partner IDEAS.
- At the end of June, **3,797 new** refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants were counted in Serbia – increase by 6% since a month ago. **3,044** were accommodated in 16 Asylum or Reception/Transit Centres: 67% were men, 8% women and 25% children. 41% were from Afghanistan, 18% from Pakistan, 15% from Iran, 11% from Bangladesh, 6% from Iraq and 2% from Syria. Over 753 persons - single men and now also families - were observed sleeping rough: around 350 in Belgrade City and 400 near the borders with Croatia, Hungary or Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- In June, UNHCR and partners identified **2,366** newly arriving refugees and migrants, slight decrease from 2,533 during May. 39% were from Afghanistan (up from 36%), 35% from Pakistan (down from 41%), followed by Iraq (5%), Bangladesh (5%) and Syria (3%). 77% were adult men, 2% adult women and 21% were children, including **429 UASC**. 76% of observed new arrivals entered Serbia from North Macedonia (down from 79%), 16% from Bulgaria (up from 13%), 5% from Albania (up from 4%), etc.
- **822** reports of **collective expulsions** from neighbouring countries were received in June (compared to 849 in May): 247 from Bosnia and Herzegovina (down from 306), 235 from Croatia (down from 284), 228 from Hungary (up from 211) and 112 from Romania (up from 48). 79% alleged denial of access to asylum procedures (down from 90%) and 27% maltreatment by authorities of neighbouring countries (up from 24%).
- UNHCR Serbia compiled and issued monthly updates of its [Statistical Snapshot](#) and [Joint Site Assessments](#). With over 40,000 views, the latter remained a popular and trusted information product.

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